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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2013

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Sixty-eighth Session
Supplement No. 42

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Organization and work of the 2013 substantive session	2
III.	Documentation	4
	A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General	4
	B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States	4
IV.	Conclusions and recommendations	4

I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/71 entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010 and 66/60 of 2 December 2011,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, in which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/67/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2013:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2013, namely from 1 to 19 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the 2013 substantive session

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2013 at United Nations Headquarters at its 329th plenary meeting, on 4 December 2012 (see A/CN.10/PV.329). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2013 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 67/71. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of Chair among the geographic regions. The Commission elected Christopher Grima, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, Chair of its 2013 session. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the 2013 substantive session.

3. At its 330th meeting, on 1 April 2013, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session (A/CN.10/L.70), which reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/67/27).

4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

7. Other business.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session (A/CN.10/2013/CRP.1), in which four meetings were allocated to a general exchange of views.

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 1 to 19 April 2013. In the course of its session, the Commission held six plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.330-335). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Commission and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2013 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:
Christopher Grima (Malta)

Vice-Chairs:
Representatives of Austria, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica and Lithuania

Rapporteur:
Charlene Roopnarine (Trinidad and Tobago)

7. Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia) continued to serve as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4. At its 330th meeting, the Commission elected Knut Langeland (Norway) Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

8. At its 330th to 333rd meetings, on 1 and 3 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.330-333). Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, China, Cuba (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria (in its national capacity and on behalf of the Group of African States), Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam.

9. At its 330th meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane.

10. In accordance with the decision taken at its 2012 substantive session, the Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Working Group I held 11 meetings, from 3 to 17 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". Working Group II held 11 meetings, from 3 to 17 April.

12. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 67/71, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all of the official records of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the Commission's work, the elements contained in the working paper submitted by Egypt (A/CN.10/2013/WP.1), dealing with substantive questions, were considered.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 335th plenary meeting, on 19 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions contained therein. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, by consensus, its report to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the secretariat.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 330th meeting, on 1 April 2013, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2013 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.70) and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

2. The Working Group, chaired by Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia), held 11 meetings, from 3 to 17 April 2013. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive, though not exhaustive, discussions on agenda item 4.

4. At the 1st meeting, on 3 April 2013, the Chair circulated a non-paper dated 17 April 2012 that served as a basis for the discussions on item 4 held from 3 to 8 April 2013.

5. At the 4th, 5th and 8th meetings, on 8, 9 and 12 April 2013, the Chair circulated revised versions of the non-paper.

6. At the 4th and 5th meetings, delegations made various proposals and exchanged views on the version of the Chair's non-paper entitled "Recommendations" dated 8 April 2013.

7. At the 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 April 2013, delegations made various proposals and exchanged views on the version of the Chair's non-paper entitled "Recommendations" dated 9 April 2013.

8. At the 8th meeting, on 12 April 2013, delegations made various proposals and exchanged views on the Chair's non-paper entitled "General guiding elements", dated 12 April.

9. Following discussions in the Working Group on the non-papers, the Chair decided to circulate, at the current session, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation and its right to put forward further proposals at the next substantive session of the Commission, two working papers, one entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" (A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/WP.2) and the other entitled "General guiding elements for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation" (A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/WP.3). Those working papers do not represent negotiated positions or command consensus and should not set a precedent.

10. At the 9th meeting, on 15 April 2013, delegations made various proposals and exchanged views on the first 10 paragraphs of A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/WP.2. At the 10th meeting, on 16 April 2013, the Chair presented A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/WP.3 to delegations. No discussion on that working paper could take place.

11. A compilation of proposals made by Member States on the working papers circulated by the Chair was requested by delegations. All working papers — past, present and future — and the compilation of proposals could be considered as a basis for further deliberations.

12. The following were presented to Working Group I:

(a) Working paper submitted by the United States of America (A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/WP.1);

(b) Working paper submitted by the Chair (A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/WP.2);

(c) Working paper submitted by the Chair (A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/WP.3);

(d) Compilation of proposals made by Member States on the working papers submitted by the Chair (A/CN.10/2013/WG.I/CRP.2).

13. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the secretariat.

14. At its 11th meeting, on 17 April 2013, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4. It also decided to make available to the Commission, at its 2014 substantive session, the working papers and the compilation of proposals listed in paragraph 12 above.

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 330th meeting, on 1 April 2013, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2013 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.70) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". At the same meeting, the Commission elected Knut Langeland (Norway) Chair of Working Group II.

2. Working Group II held 11 meetings, from 3 to 17 April 2013. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group had before it a working paper submitted by Ireland on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/2013/WG.II/WP.1).

4. At its 1st meeting, on 3 April 2013, the Working Group took up the second revision of the non-paper submitted by the Chair dated 17 April 2012 (A/CN.10/2012/WG.II/CRP.I/Rev.2) and decided to use it as a basis for discussion.

5. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 and 5 April, the Working Group engaged in discussions and consultations on the non-paper dated 17 April 2012.

6. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 2013, the Chair circulated a non-paper that was based on the text dated 17 April 2012 and that took into account the written and oral proposals made by delegations. At the same meeting, the Working Group began a reading of a non-paper submitted by the Chair entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons".

7. At its 5th meeting, on 9 April 2013, the Working Group continued its reading of that non-paper. At the same meeting, the Chair circulated a first revision of his non-paper, dated 9 April 2013.

8. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 April 2013, the Working Group continued its discussions of the Chair's revised non-paper.

9. At the 8th meeting, on 12 April 2013, the Chair circulated a second revision of his non-paper.

10. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 15 and 16 April 2013, the Working Group completed its first reading of the latest version of the Chair's non-paper.

11. At the 11th meeting, on 17 April 2013, the Chair circulated a third revision of his non-paper, which contained different proposals and amendments by Member States. The Chair announced his intention to have the non-paper issued as a working paper, to be issued with the symbol A/CN.10/2013/WG.II/WP.2, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation and its right to put forward further proposals at the next substantive session of the Commission. The working paper did not represent negotiated positions nor did it command consensus and should not set a precedent. All working papers — past, present or future — could be considered as a basis for future deliberations.

12. At its 11th meeting, on 17 April 2013, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5. The Working Group recorded its appreciation of the Chair and the secretariat.

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